

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14 SAJ-01 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4859

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 14155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW FR, US

SUBJECT: POLITICAL INITIATIVES ON EUROPE

1. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND RAISED WITH FROEIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER SEPTEMBER 6 THE CURRENT REPORTS OF INITIATIVES
ON EUROPE FOLLOWING THE GISCARD-SCHMIDT MEETING. DID
GENSCHER THINK IT LIKELY THAT IMPORTANT NEW INITIATIVES
COULD BE CARRIED OUT AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE?

2. GENSCHER REMARKED THAT THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS THE
EEC PRESIDENCY ALWAYS WANTS TO REFORM EUROPE. THE FRG
HAD ACTED IN THIS SENSE DURING ITS PRESIDENCY, BUT IT
HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ANY FORWARD MOVENT.
HE ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORED THE IDEA OF

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MAJORITY DECISION IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. PERHAPS

THERE WOULD BE SOME FRENCH INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AT THE FORTHCOMING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. (GENSCHER SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO USE THE WORD SUMMIT: THE MEETING WOULD BE INFORMAL.) IT WAS CLEARLY IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

3. GENSCHER THEN ELABORATED AT SOME LENGTH ON HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS CENTRIFUGAL FORCES AT WORK IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE. UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS NATIONAL MINISTERS IN ALMOST EVERY FUNCTIONAL AREA OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY ARE MEETING REGULARLY. AFTER CONSULTING WITH THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS AMONG THE NINE THEY COME BACK TO ARGUE POSITIONS IN NATIONAL COUNCILS CITING SUPPORT FROM THEIR FOREIGN COLLEAGUES. THIS MODE OF OPERATION SERIOUSLY HINDERED GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND HAD TO BE DEALT WITH. BECAUSE OF THEIR FEDERAL SYSTEM, THE GERMANS HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE KIND OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED. CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS THESE LAY BEHIND THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FELT THERE SHOULD BE A STRONGER CONCENTRATION OF AUTHORITY IN THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. GENSCHER THEN CITED THE CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENTS IN CURRENT MEDIA INTERVIEWS CRITICIZING THE "SWOLLEN" EEC BUREAUCRACY, AND NOTED THAT THE CHANCELLOR FAVORED HIS POSITION OF CONCENTRATING AUTHORITY IN THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. PRESUMABLY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD DEAL WITH THE QUESTION IN THEIR FORTHCOMING MEETING. GENSCHER ADDED THAT ECONOMIC STABILITY POLICIES WOULD ALSO BE A THEME FOR DISCUSSION.

4. THE AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT 20 YEARS AGO, OR 10, PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN UNFAVORABLY AS WEAKENING THE SUPRANATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY. THE FOUCHET PLAN HAD BEEN REJECTED ON THESE GROUNDS. NOW, HOWEVER, THIS IS APPARENTLY THE AGREED PATH ON WHICH GOVERNMENTS INTEND TO PROCEED. GENSCHER AGREED. THE UNFORTUNATE FACT WAS, HE SAID, THAT THE EUROPEAN

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COMMISSION WAS INCAPABLE OF ACTING AS AN EFFECTIVE EXECUTIVE ORGAN.
HILLENBRAND

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